

NRO 25X1

3 May 1962

NRO DECLASSIFICATION/RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS ON FILE

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Scheduling of May CORONA Flights

1. At the USIB meeting on 2 May, I was asked to investigate the possibility of moving up the CORONA flight scheduled for late May (presently 21 May) to exchange places with the ARGON flight scheduled for 15 May.

2. This has been investigated, but does not appear possible. The in-flight failure of the camera mechanism of the most recent CORONA shot requires failure analysis and corrective action, so that the earliest possible time which the next CORONA could be flown without risk of additional malfunction would be the presently scheduled 21 May. Furthermore, the basic ground rule for these vehicles is that the orbit can be changed only up to nineteen days prior to launch.

3. In view of these factors, it is recommended that no change be made in the presently scheduled ARGON flight, and that the CORONA schedule be maintained to permit the earliest possible flight after the malfunction has been corrected.

/s/

HERBERT SCOVILLE, Jr.
Deputy Director
(Research)

DDR:HScoville:mh

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